

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of August 17, 2009

Chairman Martha Morrison called the meeting to order at 7:31PM. Board members present in addition to Chairman Martha Morrison were Richard Gandt, Nancy Luther, Karen Dow and Laura Powers. Of the Selectmen's staff, Town Administrator Virginia Wilder and Board Secretary Donna Rich were in attendance. Other persons present were Evelyn Hammond of the Topsfield Cable and Joe Geller, Rail Trail Committee Chairman.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Selectman Luther announced that the Police Chief will run another Citizens Police Academy commencing on September 15th, every Tuesday from 6-8:30PM at the Police Department. It is open to interested residents from High School seniors to Senior Citizens.

Selectman Powers announced that the Masconomet School Committee has appointed an interim Superintendent, Dr. Anthony Bent, recently retired from Shrewsbury, MA. Dr. Bent will begin on August 30th.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:30 – Railroad Historical Marker - Joe Geller came before the Board on behalf of the Historical Society and the Rail Trail Committee to discuss the location for the placement of the historical marker commemorating railroad transportation through Topsfield. Mr. Geller distributed a photo displaying the proposed location, as indicated on the attached photograph. Selectman Powers made a motion to accept the placement of the marker as proposed by the Historical Society and Rail Trail Committee at the location indicated, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 5-0. Mr. Geller then gave an update on the Rail Trail project to the Board. There is a ribbon-cutting ceremony planned for 10/17, with a reception at the library.

TD Bank, N.A. – Chairman Morrison noted that representatives from Bohler Engineering on behalf of TD Bank, NA were not ready to present the new signage proposal to the Board at this meeting. A working session would be required to review the new proposal for signage at 16 Main Street. Selectman Dow made a motion to continue the Public Hearing for TD Bank, NA of 16 Main Street until August 31, 2009, or earlier if the appeal process applies; seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

GENERAL BUSINESS

New Business

Town Hall Concrete Steps Repairs: Selectman Gandt made a motion to award a contract to Caruso & McGovern Construction Inc. of Georgetown, MA for the purpose of repairing the north side entrances at Town Hall in the amount of \$7,477.00; seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted 5-0.

Minutes of Boards: Ms. Wilder explained that there is a movement to have all minutes of Boards/Commissions and Committees posted on the Town Web Site; therefore, the minutes would not be placed in the meeting packets. There was a discussion as to how best to communicate to the Board the availability of the minutes and it appears that electronic versions and notification on the agenda would be the preferable method.

Scleroderma Foundation Banner Request: Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve a banner to be placed between Proctor School and Town Hall for the 5th Annual Walk-A-Thon to Cure Scleroderma from September 3rd thru the 14th, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

Chapter 90 Project Request: Selectman Gandt began by stating that at the Annual Town Meeting the citizens entrust the selectmen with authorization to accept chapter 90 funds and the selectmen are thereby responsible to ensure that the funds are used in accordance with citizen's wishes. He went on to cite two projects involving chapter 90 funds where citizens' interests were not

addressed. The first was the Asbury Street bridge project in which fencing was installed, to which some citizens objected. The second is a safety issue on Pine Street. Some three years ago the citizens of Pine Street expressed concern for pedestrian safety and at the 7/11/06 Board of Selectmen's meeting the selectmen discussed with the Traffic Safety Committee the possible addition of a sidewalk and curbing to improve pedestrian safety. He went on to express concern that we were now being asked to approve the reconstruction of Pine Street, but that no apparent consideration had been given to addressing the safety concerns expressed some three years ago. However, recognizing that no resolution to his concerns could be reached that evening, Selectman Gandt made a motion to authorize Chapter 90 funds be requested from the state in the amount of \$103,800 for reconstruction of Pine Street, resurfacing the top course on Grove St, Gail St and Gail Circle and to resurface a section of Asbury Street, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 5-0. Chairman Morrison will speak with the Planning Board about planning for trails/paths/sidewalks.

Engineering Peer Review for Septic System for English Commons EHD Project: Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve the contract with Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. of Peabody, MA for Peer Review for the English Commons Elderly Housing District, relative to Title V requirements of septic system design and construction monitoring, in the not too exceed amount of \$12,500.00, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 5-0.

Town Administrator's Report:

- North Shore Regional Vocational School Merger update
- Local Option Sales Tax
- Vehicle Use Policy
- Essex Regional Retirement Board Advisory Council Meeting
- MMA Legislative Breakfasts

Correspondence & Reports

Correspondence

On August 19 Comcast will offer enhancements to their digital entertainment offerings. Kopelman & Paige has sent a review of what the state budget implications are for municipalities. Some may apply to Topsfield, while others do not.

Reports

Library Board of Trustees submitted Minutes of July 21, 2009

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of \$ **184,059.33**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY10:

015T	\$ 93,457.70
0 16	\$ 90,601.63

At 8:39PM Selectman Luther made motion to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Approved as amended at the September 14, 2009 Board of Selectmen's meeting.